



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.2 percent in July 2003 from the June 2003 revised rate of 4.9 percent. School closures in June drove the rate change because Idaho State University (ISU) students left the area and the *Civilian Labor Force* dropped 1.7 percent, while unemployment crept up 3.0 percent. An encouraging sign of economic improvement was the drop in the unemployment rate from last year. In July 2002 the unemployment rate reached 6.4 percent, but fell 1.2 percent to the July 2003 rate of 5.2 percent.

The Pocatello MSA's unemployment rate ranked third out of the two MSAs and six Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho. The Bonneville and Magic Valley LMAs' unemployment rates were lowest, both at 3.9 percent, followed by the Seaport LMA at 4.4 percent. The Pocatello MSA's rate remained below the state rate of 5.6 percent and the U.S. rate of 6.2 percent.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs at 32,170 in July 2003 declined by 570 jobs from 32,740 in June 2003. The drop occurred in both the *Goods-Producing Industries* (-40) and the *Service-Providing Industries* (-530), but the decreases showed up mainly in *Government Education* (-610) because of school closures. In the *Goods-Producing Industries*, *Manufacturing* gained 30 jobs, but the gain was offset by the loss of 70 construction jobs. Some of the construction job losses were because of the reduction in force at S.M.E. Steel Contractors. The company cited a lack of major contracts as the reason for the reduction.

Other than the 610-job loss because of school closures, the other notable loss in the *Service-Providing Industries* was 140 jobs in *Leisure & Hospitality*. Since losses occurred within each of the

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	July 2003*	June 2003	July 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	39,970	40,650	39,980	-1.7	0.0
Unemployment	2,060	2,000	2,540	3.0	-18.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2%	4.9%	6.4%		
Total Employment	37,910	38,650	37,440	-1.9	1.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	38,760	40,020	38,720	-3.1	0.1
Unemployment	1,930	1,870	2,370	3.2	-18.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0%	4.7%	6.1%		
Total Employment	36,830	38,150	36,250	-3.5	1.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	32,170	32,740	31,520	-1.7	2.1
Goods-Producing Industries	4,380	4,420	4,330	-0.9	1.2
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	20	0.0	-50.0
Construction	1,820	1,890	1,710	-3.7	6.4
Manufacturing	2,550	2,520	2,600	1.2	-1.9
Food Manufacturing	470	470	450	0.0	4.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	110	110	120	0.0	-8.3
Machinery Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Other Manufacturing	1,940	1,910	1,990	1.6	-2.5
Service-Providing Industries	27,790	28,320	27,190	-1.9	2.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,650	6,620	6,620	0.5	0.5
Wholesale Trade	980	1,000	1,050	-2.0	-6.7
Retail Trade	4,410	4,380	4,300	0.7	2.6
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,210	1,190	1,220	1.7	-0.8
Information	690	700	680	-1.4	1.5
Financial Activities	1,780	1,790	1,830	-0.6	-2.7
Professional & Business Services	3,420	3,390	3,240	0.9	5.6
Educational & Health Services	2,840	2,860	3,060	-0.7	-7.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,170	3,310	3,210	-4.2	-1.2
Other Services	1,290	1,200	1,200	7.5	7.5
Government Education	3,790	4,400	3,610	-13.9	5.0
Government Administration	4,150	4,060	3,740	2.2	11.0

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Leisure & Hospitality subcategories—*Arts, Amusement & Recreation* (-50); *Accommodations* (-40); and *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-50)—they were likely because temporary jobs added for special events throughout spring ended.

From July 2002 to July 2003 the MSA gained 650 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. The increase occurred in both the *Goods-Producing Industries* and *Service-Providing Industries*. *Professional & Business Services* and *Government Education* led job growth with 180 additional jobs in each category because of added customer service contracts at local call centers and increased student employment at ISU. *Construction* and *Retail Trade* gained 110 jobs each. Construction activity increased more than 80 percent over the year. Increases occurred in both residential and nonresidential construction,

primarily because of historically low interest rates. The addition of *Retail Trade* jobs occurred because of new retail businesses that opened this year and because consumer spending improved.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Job Service Offices Exceed Workforce Investment Act Service Provider Goals

Bob Perky, Director of the Southeast *IdahoWorks* Board, reported recently that an audit of performance measures indicated that the Job Service offices in Pocatello and Blackfoot had exceptional performance last year. The two offices are the designated service providers of the employment and training needs of individuals qualified under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

During the program year 2002 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003), most of the performance goals were met or exceeded, resulting in a variety of incentive payments to the Southeast *IdahoWorks* Board. The efforts of Job Service and partner agencies have helped many individuals acquire employment, education, and training. With the help of WIA, these people are contributing members to their communities.

Overall 512 adults, dislocated workers, and youth enrolled in the WIA programs in Southeast Idaho during the 2002 program year. The majority of these people—291—were dislocated workers. Over 196 individuals exited the program, most to jobs or to further education. The goals for the year were more than met and within the budgeted amounts. Job Service staff exceeded their goals in services to dislocated workers and in adult programs, and achieved 95 percent of their goal in the youth program—an impressive achievement.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Construction is nearly complete on a new Quiznos sandwich shop in Pocatello. The business is located on the corner of Center Street and South Fifth and should open by the end of October.
- Franklin Building Supply opened in Pocatello at 1951 Flandro Drive. The business held a grand opening celebration in August. It offers a full line of building supplies, ranging from framing to finish products, and services for professional builders. The business also has experienced staff to assist individuals with their home-building and improvement projects.

- Early Start, a developmental preschool focusing on pre-academics and communication, has opened in Pocatello. Alyson Elsethagen, M.S., CCC-SLP, a certified speech language pathologist, and Kay Elsethagen, B.A., Elem. Ed., operate the preschool, which is located at 10 Drake.

Bear Lake County

- A new restaurant, El Rodeo, recently opened in Montpelier. The restaurant, owned by Efrian Brambila and Orencio Brambila, serves authentic Mexican food. The owners also have restaurants in Pocatello and Soda Springs.

Bingham County

- Valley Medical Shoppe has opened a store in Blackfoot. The medical shop, located at 1350 Parkway Drive, No. 26, held a grand opening celebration in August. Owners Gary Aiman, a respiratory therapist, and Rick Smith, a registered nurse, stocked the store with a wide variety of medical supplies and equipment.
- Moreland Grain and Seed added two 125,000-bushel grain bins and a 10,000-bushel per hour elevator at its Moreland site. The addition increased the business' storage capacity to 1.1 million bushels. The addition eliminates the need to store grain on the ground where it can be damaged and lose some of its value.
- A \$40,000 renovation of the Potato Expo parking lot in downtown Blackfoot was completed in August. It was part of a long-term revitalization plan for historic downtown Blackfoot. The renovation enhanced access and the appearance of the Potato Expo, which also houses the Greater Blackfoot Chamber of Commerce. Improvements included new asphalt and curbing, handicapped accessibility, additional parking, and new grass and trees.

Franklin County

- Preparations have begun for moving the historic Oneida Academy. Lindsay Moving & Rigging began cutting the academy's foundation and will cut portals for steel beams to be used to carry the building. Preparation for moving the building will take two to three months. The building will be moved three blocks to Benson Park where it will be set on a new foundation and prepared for renovation.

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